



July 1st, 2013

Bob Perciasepe, Acting Administrator for EPA  
Federal Building Aerial Rios  
Washington, D.C. 20249

Re: Ch'u'itna Coal Development Project

Dear Bob,

Thank you for making time to meet with Vice-President Al Goozmer, Heather Kendall-Miller Rob Rosenfeld and I, in April to discuss the Native Village of Tyonek's (NVT) concerns regarding the Ch'u'itna Coal Development Project and the devastating impacts the Project will have on subsistence resources. The Chuitna coal mine would be the first project in Alaskan history to mine completely through 13.8 miles of wild salmon stream. Not surprisingly, a door-to-door poll of the 200 residents of the Native Village of Tyonek revealed that 98% of Villagers oppose the Chuitna coal mine.

PacRim, a Delaware corporation, is seeking state and federal permits to operate the Chuitna strip mine with the potential to remove 700 million metric tons of coal within a 5,050 acre footprint over a 25 year period. PacRim Coal has acquired lease rights to land owned by the Mental Health Trust and the State of Alaska near the Chuit River and Tyonek, and has requested a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers to mine coal from the area. The project, if implemented, would require dredging fourteen miles of riverbed at a depth of approximately 350 feet. This would also require support systems for the operation, such as a mining road, a conveyor belt, and a port facility in order to transport the extracted coal.

#### **Tribal Request to EPA**

During the government to government meeting between EPA and NVT, I invited you to Tyonek to visit our community during the summer of 2013, in-order to learn about our unique relationship to the environment and deep connections to the land and water. I would like to renew my sincere invitation to you, in the hope that you will be able to visit this summer.

As previously stated, NVT respectfully requests that EPA's 404(c) authority to be used to veto Pac Rim's permit application to mine for coal in and around the Chuitna river. Reclamation of a river and watershed on this scale has never been done before. The coal development will have unacceptable adverse impacts to the river, the salmon, the water, and the survival of the Tubughna people.

Pursuant to section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act ("CWA"), 33 U.S.C. 1344(c), NVT requests that the EPA prepare a recommended determination to prohibit or withdraw specification, or to deny, restrict, or withdraw the use for specification, of the disposal site because the discharge of dredged -or fill material at such site would be -likely to have an unacceptable adverse effects.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. NVT greatly appreciates your leadership and will continue to give you updates on developments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Standifer III", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

President Frank Standifer III

Cc:

Nancy Stoner  
Geoff Haskett  
Raya Bakalov  
Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri  
Bicky Corman  
Dennis McClarren